

CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS  
CITY MANAGER AND BOARD OF HEALTH

EMERGENCY ORDER MANDATING FACE COVERINGS

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020 the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 15, 2020 Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order to respond to the evolving COVID-19 public health emergency impacting the Commonwealth, including prohibitions of public gatherings of twenty-five or more people and prohibiting on-premises consumption of food or drink at bars and restaurants; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2020 Governor Baker issued an Order limiting gatherings of more than ten people and ordering businesses, other than those that provide Essential Services, to close their operations and operate solely by remote means, and

**WHEREAS**, on March 31, 2020 and April 28, 2020 Governor Baker issued further Orders extending the period of time during which non-essential businesses are required to remain closed to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 10, 2020 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued an Advisory stating that the wearing of face coverings may help the spread of COVID-19 by individuals infected with the virus, including those who show no signs of illness or are not experiencing symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has advised that the spread of the disease from person to person is caused in part by respiratory droplets that can be passed through conversation, coughing and/or sneezing and the CDC, the United States Surgeon General and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, among other federal and state medical authorities have recommended that individuals wear masks or other suitable facial coverings that cover the individual's nose and mouth to prevent individuals from infecting others; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is easily transmitted and the Board of Health has determined that the threat of COVID-19 presents a real and imminent danger to the public health, safety and general welfare of the people of Lowell and the requirement of wearing face coverings in essential services workplaces, such as supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, bodegas, restaurants offering take-out food and other facilities where the public has general access would serve to lessen, reduce or minimize the likelihood of the spread of this highly contagious disease;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Lowell Board of Health, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111 Sections 30, 31, 98, 99, 100, and 104, 310 CMR 11.05 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, hereby orders as follows:

1. Every person aged five or older shall wear a mask or face covering (e.g. disposables masks, cloth masks, face shields, bandanas, scarfs), that covers the nose and mouth at all times when in public, including, but not limited to, all indoor locations open to the public and outdoor

locations open to the public (including sidewalks, streets, parks, plazas and squares, bus stops, and non-residential parking lots and garages).

2. Any person, including employees of businesses, aged five or older, entering any business open to the public, including, but not limited to, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, bodegas, pharmacies, laundromats, dry cleaners, hardware stores, restaurants or cafes offering take-out food, meals and beverages and commercial office buildings shall wear a mask or face covering that covers the nose and mouth prior to entering the establishment and continuously during the time the person is present in such establishment.
3. All Essential Businesses, as defined by Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 Order, and all establishments open to the public shall post a sign at all entrances informing the public that masks or cloth face coverings must be worn at all times upon entry and continuously while present within the premises.
4. This Emergency Order shall take effect at 12:01 AM on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 and shall remain in effect until further notice by the Board of Health or the Governor's issuing an Order that the State of Emergency has been rescinded.

Members of the Board of Health

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